

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 /051 W

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R 190750Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PEPR, CZ

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES

REFS A. PRAGUE 3625, B. STATE 3623

1. DURING JAN 16 CALL, CHARGE TOLD ZANTOVSKY, HEAD OF MFA'S SIXTH DEPT., THAT USG IS PLEASED WITH CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN RECENT WEEKS ON DIVIDED FAMILIES. HOWEVER, HE NOTED , WE WERE CONCERNED BY THE COMMENT OF ONE MFA OFFICIAL (HOUZVICKA) THAT PROGRESS IN CERTAIN TYPES OF CASES IS LINKED TO THE STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS (REF A). CHARGE SAID THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM MFA THAT USG CANNOT ACCEPT THIS IDEA SINCE IT MEANS THAT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DIVIDED FAMILIES CASES ARE IN EFFECT HOSTAGES OF OUR BILATERAL POLITICAL SITUATION. ZANTOVSKY REPLIED THAT THE GOC IS COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE RECENT PROGRESS ON DIVIDED FAMILIES IS DUE TO THIS COMMITMENT. HE ADDED, AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT, THAT THE GOC RXPECTS RECIRPOCITY IN THESE MATTERS.

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS AND SHARES DEPT'S CONCERNS OVER ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE DIVIDED FAMILIES ISSUE, AND HAS MADE THIS POSITION KNOWN TO CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ON MANY OCCASIONS. WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT GOC IS MOVING AWAY FROM THIS LINKAGE RATHER THAN TOWARD IT. MORE DIVIDED
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FAMILIES CASES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED DURING LAST TWO MONTHS THAN IN ANY COMPARABLE PERIOD DURING LAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND WE SEE NO CASUAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS EVENT AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE THAT HOUZVICKA HAS BEEN MORE HELPFUL TO US THAN ANY OTHER OFFICIAL OF THE MFA'S CONSULAR DEPT. WITHIN RECENT MEMORY, AND THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE MADE IN THE SORT OF FRANK AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION WHICH WE HOPE WILL CONTINUE.

BASED ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT MATTER
SHOULD BE PURSUED FURTHER AT THIS TIME. DECONTROL
AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.
BYRNE

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